

NOMINATION OF RICHARD HELMS TO BE AMBASSADOR TO IRAN AND CIA INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

NOMINATION OF RICHARD HELMS, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, ON HIS NOMINATION TO BE AMBASSADOR TO IRAN AND CIA INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES

FEbruary 1 AND MAY 21, 1973

[The February 1 hearing was held in Executive Session and classified Secret. It was declassified and published on March 2, 1974.]



Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1974

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 2004/08/28

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I did not intend to raise this. Senator Terry prompted me to bring this question up, and since you are here I might as well ask you about it. You are familiar with the Anderson Papers?

Mr. HIRSH: Yes, sir, but the agency was not using ITT for espionage purposes.

The CHAIRMAN: Gathering of information maybe? Is that a better way to put it?

Mr. HIRSH: Well, I have no doubt in the course of discussions between members of the Embassy and ITT and Ancofonda and various other companies that information was exchanged back and forth. I have no doubt of that, but this hardly qualifies as espionage.

The CHAIRMAN: I must say it is hard to say what espionage is. Ellsberg, as I understand it, is being prosecuted for espionage, but it is hard for me to see it is espionage, too. It is very difficult. These semantics have become impossible. All I meant was gathering information.

What do you mean by espionage?

Mr. HIRSH: Well, sir, espionage, in the definition that we give to it, is the hiring of an individual to acquire information without anyone knowing that the individual is (a) acquiring the information or (b) what he represents.

FORMER CIA MEN INVOLVED IN WATERGATE PROBE

The CHAIRMAN: That reminds me of another matter you might want to clarify and comment on.

It seems that several of the people involved in the bugging of the Watergate were former CIA men.

Mr. HIRSH: Forster, yes, sir. They were in the office, they had left. I have no control over anybody who has left.

The CHAIRMAN: I know you do not. I am just asking you whether it is true that they were former CIA men.

Mr. HIRSH: Yes, sir, Hunt was, and McCord was.

The CHAIRMAN: They were both former CIA. It was clear, I think, in the paper that they were no longer in your employ.

Mr. HIRSH: They had been, both been retired at least 2 years.

The CHAIRMAN: Two years.

CIA AND NATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Finally, in this respect some years ago we heard quite a bit about the CIA and the National Students Association. All of that has been cleared up, or has it?

What is the present status?

Mr. HIRSH: It has totally been cleared up, even including the headquarters which have been taken over by them, and there is nothing left out of anything.

The CHAIRMAN: It is all cleared up?

Mr. HIRSH: Yes, sir.

CIA DISINTEGRATION FROM RADIO FREE EUROPE

The CHAIRMAN: You formerly financed, I believe, to a great extent, 80 or 85 percent, Radio Free Europe. Did you not?

Mr. HIRSH: Yes, sir.

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